

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-05 NSC-05 SS-15

EUR-12 NEA-10 /076 W

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R 211710Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3782

INFO PANCANAL

USCINCSO

UNCLAS PANAMA 6827

DEPT FOR ARA/PAF AND PAN

USCINCSO FOR J-2 AND PAO

PANCANAL FOR IO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, PN

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTIONS

FOLLOWING FROM USIS/PANAMA P R 211702Z SEP 77 SENT ACTION

USINFO WASHDC INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV SECSTATE REPEATED FOR YOUR
ACTION/INFO:

QUOTE: UNCLAS

SECSTATE FOR ARA/PAF & PAN

E.O. 11652: N/A

MEDIA REACTION

1-CANAL TREATY: TWO PRO-GOP DAILIES, LA REPUBLICA OF SEPT.

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AND SEPT. 21 MATUTINO, PUBLISH 48-PAGE SUPPLEMENT WITH SPANISH

TREATY TEXT. PRO-GOP CRITICA SEPT. 21 PROMISES SAME FOR SEPT.

22 EDITION. SEMI-INDEPENDENT LA ESTRELLA AND STAR AND HERALD

FRONT-PAGE AP WASHINGTON ITEM QUOTING SEN. CRANSTON AS SAYING

70 SENATORS NOW FAVOR RATIFICATION.

2. ESTRELLA SEPT. 21 EDIT SAYS OPPOSITION SENATORS "CANNOT BE

SO IGNORANT AND SO STUPID TO BELIEVE IDIOCY" THAT CANAL ZONE IS PART OF US, "BUT PREFER TO TAKE EASY WAY AND FOLLOW CURRENT OF WHAT THEY BELIEVE TO BE OPINION OF THEIR ELECTORS..." ESTRELLA CONTINUES, HOWEVER, THAT IT BELIEVES SENATORS CANNOT HELP BUT SEE "INCALCULABLE HARM WHICH TREATY REJECTION COULD DO TO THEIR COUNTRY AND TO MOST IMPORTANT US INSTITUTIONS. CERTAINLY, IF SUCH A THING WERE TO HAPPEN, IT WOULD DISGUST US PANAMANIAN DEEPLY. BUT UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD WE ARRIVE AT DESPERATION. WE WOULD HAVE LOST A BATTLE, BUT NOT THE WAR."

3. ESTRELLA ASKS IF "THESE OBSTINATE SENATORS DO NOT SEE? WITH WHAT POWER AND AUTHORITY COULD PRES. CARTER DIRECT FOREIGN POLICY OF HIS NATION (IF TREATY WERE REJECTED)? WITH WHAT POWER AND AUTHORITY COULD THE PRES. OF THE US NEGOTIATE AGREEMENTS, TREATIES OR ACCORDS WITH OTHER NATIONS? WHAT WOULD OTHER NATIONS THINK...? ARE...FORD...RUSK AND KISSINGER AND SO MANY OTHERS, INCLUDING SENATORS WHO SUPPORT TREATY, PERHAPS LESS INTELLIGENT AND LESS PATRIOTIC THAN THOSE WHO OPPOSE IT?"

4. MATUTINO EDIT CALLS ACCUSATIONS THAT US WAS BLACKMAILED BY PANAMANIAN AFTER DISCOVERIES OF SPYING ON PANAMANIAN NEGOTIATORS "TRIAL BY FIRE" WHICH HAS SERVED ONLY TO MAKE IT CLEAR WHAT LOW SPECIES OF CREATURE PANAMA'S ENEMIES ARE, BY "DEMONSTRATING ABSOLUTE FALSITY OF ACCUSATIONS." MATUTINO POINTS OUT "IMPOSSIBILITY ... THAT NATION OF SUCH VAST RESOURCES AS US COULD BE BROUGHT DOWN BY PRESSURE EXERCISED BY COUNTRY OF SUCH MINISCULE UNCLASSIFIED

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DIMENSIONS AS PANAMA."

5. MATUTINO CONCLUDES, "WITH ALL THIS IT IS VERY POSSIBLE, INDEED VERY DESIRABLE, THAT US PEOPLE, INCLUDING MEMBERS OF SENATE, HAVE ARRIVED AT LOGICAL CONCLUSION THAT A CAUSE WHICH RESISTS AND REINFORCES ITSELF IN FACE OF SUCH TREMENDOUS ATTACKS... MERITS RESPECT AND SUPPORT OF PEOPLE WITH SUCH HIGHLY DEVELOPED SENSE OF JUSTICE AS US PEOPLE."

6. MATUTINO COLUMNIST LUIS RESTREPO AGREES: "PANAMANIAN ARE FULLY AWARE THAT THEY ARE ALWAYS SUBMITTED TO WATCHFUL EYE OF THE NORTH. PRESENCE IN NATIONAL TERRITORY OF MILITARY INSTALLATIONS MAKES THIS TYPE OF SPYING EASY SINCE THEY HAVE TECHNICIANS AND EQUIPMENT IN ABUNDANCE TO ACHIEVE OBJECTIVE...WHAT IS INCONCEIVABLE IS CHARGE OF BLACKMAIL AGAINST NUMBER ONE MILITARY, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC POWER OF WORLD. NOT EVEN SOVIET UNION COULD GET BY WITH SUCH INTENTIONS."

7. PRO-GOP CRITICA COLUMNIST CAMILO PEREZ PRAISES MAKEUP OF SPECIAL COMMISSION APPOINTED BY NATIONAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION TO STUDY TREATY PROVISIONS, BUT LAMENTS PRESS OF TIME: "STUDY WHICH WE WANT TO DO SHOULD BE SERIOUS. THE RUSH IS A FACTOR WHICH GENERATES

ANGUISH." PEREZ SPECULATES THAT, "PERHAPS...PANAMA WISHES TO HAVE A DECISION IN PLEBISCITE IN ORDER TO PRESENT A DEMAND AND CERTAIN PRESSURE ON SENATE. WE BELIEVE THAT WITH OR WITHOUT APPROVAL BY PANAMANIAN PEOPLE, SENATE WILL DO WHAT IT THINKS MOST POLITICA AND MOST FAVORABLE TO INNUMERABLE MULTINATIONALS WHICH AFFECT ECONOMY OF LATAM AND WHICH AT SAME TIME INFLUENCE SPIRIT OF MORE THAN ONE US SENATOR."

8. PEREZ CONCLUDES THAT TORRIJOS TRIP TO ISRAEL WILL HELP PANAMANIAN CAUSE, SINCE "WE HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN THAT JEWISH COMMUNITY EXERCISES GOOD INFLUENCE ON US CONGRESS. PRINCIPAL CAPITALIST PUBLICATIONS BELONG TO OR ARE CONTROLLED BY JEWS. AND IT'S CERTAIN THAT IN THIS ASPECT JEWS EXERCISE MORE INFLUENCE THAN ARABS."

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9. CRITICA EDIT AGREES THAT ISRAEL TRIP IS GOOD IDEA: "A BOLD STEP WHICH BEGINS NEW STAGE OF INTERNATIONAL DETENTE. PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT WHICH HAS MAINTAINED...VERY CLEAR POSITION IN UN IN RELATION TO MIDDLE EAST PROBLEMS, GIVES LESSON TO WORLD IN ACCORD WITH PHILOSOPHY INSTALLED BY OCTOBER REVOLUTION ON QUESTION OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. PANAMA'S POSITION, MAINTAINING PRINCIPLE THAT IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO IMPOSE BY THIRD PARTIES WHO ARE FRIENDS AND WHO ARE ENEMIES, IS CONCEIVED WITHIN TRUE NEUTRALITY OF PANAMA CANAL. EFFECTIVE NEUTRALITY AND PANAMANIAN FOREIGN POLICY ARE ALMOST SYNONOMOUS." ITEM UNQUOTE JORDEN

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